Bedford so soon as the way was clear.——Great part of the wooden viaduct in course of erection at Denby Dale, on the Sheffield and Huddersfield Junction Line, has been literally blown down by the wind; and such was the depth which the supporters (twenty-seven in number) had to fall (namely 100 feet), that the strongest were broken to splinters. The damage is estimated at about 5,000*l.*——Another insatiable bog near Bingley, described by the *Globe*, is at present hungrily at work, devouring "sixty tons of earth and stones every hour of the day,"—a liberal contribution, in the thankless administration of which, notwithstanding previous experience and advice, and in spite of the discouraging fact that "all is swallowed up every morning," men and horses are engaged, as well as steam, and all to no end, of course, as heretofore. "It is a question at what time it will be completely filled up," which had better be asked at Stowmarket or Chat Moss, where, as our readers, at least, well know, heavy matters of a similar sort were, in like manner, at first so industriously poured into the insatiable gulph, and where, as in the present instance, the inevitable consequence was merely this, that the heavy matter thrown in sunk down to the bottom, forcing up the lighter bog above it, to a higher and still higher level, in exact proportion to the quantity of stones and earth thrown in. And this the bog would probably in every case continue to do, were the accumulations of heavy matter continued to a sufficient extent, until its equilibrium would be overturned, when, of course, it would become one of those fearful and strange phenomena, a moving bog, spreading itself abroad, and swallowing up every thing in its way, until it attained to another settled level.——The South-Western Scottish line,—the Glasgow, Dumfries, and Carlisle,—is making rapid progress in Ayrshire. The centres of the great bridge over the Ayr are now in, and give a good idea of what this great structure will be, as they are seen towering far above the tops of the highest trees which grow at the top of rocks 100 feet in height.——An abuse in the treatment and disposal of tenders for 8,000 tons of railway iron, by a German company, to the prejudice of three parties in England tendering, was exposed by the *Times* in its City article the other day, as one which, on national grounds, requires immediate publicity. The prices stated by the English parties, on special request, were 10*l.* 10*s.*, 10*l.* 5*s.*, and 10*l.*, per ton; but the directors of the German company, instead of completing the contract with the English party offering at the lowest price, only made use of that offer to induce the agent of another party to reduce the amount of his tender by 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton, thus bringing it 2*s.* 6*d.* below the 10*l.*, and upon this adroitly concluded an agreement, which is likely to injure German companies themselves in future as well as English ones at present.

STOCKPORT IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Two surveying officers, an architect, and a barrister-at-law, have been sent by the Woods and Forests to Stockport, where they have made preliminary inquiries relative to the improvements there contemplated, which, according to the *Stockport Mercury*, comprise four bridges with streets connected, to cost 19,072*l.*; widening, and otherwise improving streets and opening new ones, and roads, 20,101*l.*; besides which it is proposed to supply a deficiency in the quantity and quality of water by an arrangement between the corporation and the Manchester and Salford Water Works Company on the one hand, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company on the other; the latter to supply surplus water from extensive localities in Derbyshire and North Cheshire, and the former from their reservoirs, fed from their sources in Lyme Park. Evidence was led to shew that by the present company, whose supply is chiefly from artesian springs and bore holes, only 4,000 out of 12,000 houses had a limited supply, out of 259,863 gallons a day; whereas, for a population of 61,000, twenty gallons a day on an average, for each individual, or 1,220,000 gallons a day in all, are requisite for sanatory and other purposes. The immense difference is accounted for, partly by the deficiency of supply and partly by the irregular and expensive addition to that supply from other sources than those of the company. A clause in the proposed bill, prohibitive of smoke, was also discussed.

THE PROVINCIAL GAS MOVEMENT.

The expiry of another week brings with it another series of notes to chronicle on a subject which appears to be exciting an interest surprisingly general, and a determination as remarkably unanimous in favour both of the establishment of gas-light where it has not hitherto been, and of the thorough reformation of the quality, the quantity, and the expense of it where it hitherto has been, long a source of enjoyment or annoyance, or both combined.——Arrangements are in progress at Birmingham for the lighting of that part of the parish of Edgbaston which is within the boundary of the parliamentary borough.——Two commissioners have been at Runcorn making preliminary inquiries as to the gas company's bill for the supply of additional townships in this "main outlet of the internal navigation of the country." There, at present, forty-two streets and courts are partially lighted with gas, both within and without, at 7*s.* 6*d.*—or, for 130,000 feet upwards, at 4*s.* 6*d*—per 1,000 feet.——The Liverpool (incipient) Guardian Gas Company are exhibiting, just now, a gas meter said to be so simply constructed, that any consumer can check the quantity consumed without official interference.——The impurity and feebleness of the gas-light at Wakefield, as well as its high price, and its deficient quantity, have at length aroused the inhabitants to a determination to support the bill of the proposed new company there, in preference to that of the old, also applied for. They very naturally think that from the local situation of Wakefield, in the very midst of an excellent coal-field, gas ought to be as low, if not lower, in price, and as good, if not better, in quality there as any where else. The grievance at Newcastle, however, as well as there and elsewhere, appears to shew the fact, at least, if not the inference, to be the very reverse.——The Wakefield parish church clock is lighted with gas at the expense of the drapers' apprentices and assistants there.——The surveying officers have made the inquiries at Shipley and Bingley, already referred to in our previous notes. Bingley, with 5,000 inhabitants, has its gas yet to come, as Shipley with 3,000 also has; and strong cases were made out in favour of the passing of the proposed bills for both these thriving districts.——At Cockermouth a public vestry has voted 200*l.* for lighting the town for the next twelve-months.——The Gas Committee at Newcastle, it appears, lately proposed to purchase the present company's works at 50 per cent. advance on their original property, but fortunately the company rejected the offer; since which the committee has found that new works can be provided for about one-half the sum thus offered. A correspondent of the *Gateshead Observer* states, that one reason why the gas is so bad in such a locality appears to be the improvidence of the company, in not supplying themselves with a stock of good coals when the collieries, as they usually do, cease working for a time at the close of the year; so that they are compelled to use all sorts of inferior rubbish! The vulgar but shrewd and truthful adage, that "the shoemaker's wife is ever ill shod," was never perhaps more curiously illustrated than in the present instance. In Edinburgh, where the gas is made from this very coal, the gas is so pure, that it may be burnt in every room of a house—and indeed is frequently used even in bed-rooms. Many houses, even of the lower orders there, and at Glasgow, having one or more (some all) of their rooms fitted up with gas burners, for the sake of economy as well as of improvement.

Master Carpenters and New Buildings Bill.—On Thursday, the 4th inst., a very full meeting of the committee upon the intended New Buildings Bill was held at the Freemasons Tavern, Mr. H. Biers in the chair, when the present Bill up to Section 20 was discussed, and such alterations made therein as appeared to the committee necessary to amend it. The committee adjourned to Tuesday the 16th inst.

MOSAIC WORK, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

At a meeting of the Society of Arts on the 3rd inst., Mr. W. F. Cooke, V.P., in the chair; Mr. Digby Wyatt read an essay "On the Art of Mosaic, Ancient and Modern." The author commenced by stating, that the most cursory glance at the subject must convince that this art, taking the form of either pavement or mural decoration, has been connected with most of the noblest efforts of architectural genius in all ages; and as it is the wish of many at the present time to effect the revival of this art, he would endeavour to convey as clear an idea as possible of the nature, history, and condition of this graceful handmaid to the science of decoration. The first positive notice of the existence of such an art occurs in the sixth verse of the first chapter of the book of Esther, wherein an account of the riches and luxury of the Palace of Ahasuerus is mentioned, and that passage clearly establishes the fact, that the Persians were acquainted with the art, and it is supposed communicated it to the Greeks, from whom the Romans obtained their first specimens. Ciampini divides the art into four principal varieties called tesselatum, sectile, figlinum, and vermiculatum. The first, the opus tesselatum, probably the most ancient; this kind of mosaic consisted of small cubes of marble, seldom averaging more than three-quarters of an inch square; the best specimens of this description of tessela occur at Pompeii, and in the Vatican. The second division of the art, the opus sectile, was also applied to pavements, and it is in this description of mosaic that the simple, yet magnificent pavement of the pantheon at Rome is executed. This variety of mosaic was formed of thin slices of different coloured marbles cut into slabs of a given form. The opus figlinum was more generally employed in mural decoration, and, according to Pliny, was first used in the decoration of the baths of Agrippa behind the pantheon; it consisted of figures, fruits, ornaments, &c., formed by means of small cubes of vitreous composition, composed of alumini and some metallic oxide to colour it; no specimen of this description of mosaic has ever been discovered in England. The fourth description of mosaic, or opus vermiculatum, is subdivided by Ciampini into three varieties. The opus major, generally employed in large pavements or ceilings, to represent the figures of gods, centaurs, &c. The opus medium was a much finer kind of work, and was generally applicable to walls. The third division, opus minor, or opus vermiculatum, was the finest and most elaborate of all the ancient Roman mosaics, and consisted of the most delicate pictures, formed entirely by minute pieces of marble and fictile work, many of the stripes being only the twentieth of an inch across. The most beautiful specimen that has been preserved to us is the one usually known by the name of Pliny's Doves, a copy of which in mosaics was exhibited. There is one kind of mosaic which the author had observed at Pompeii, and which he considers may not be inaptly termed the opus incertum of mosaics, composed of all sorts and kinds of marbles put together in irregular shapes, and when united into a mass with cement, and laid on the floor prepared to receive it, it is reduced to a polished face by friction. In completing the sketch of this art under the Romans, the author stated that the preparation ordinarily made by them for the reception of the mosaics consisted in their first placing a layer of large stones or flints, but with very little cement, on the ground. Upon this was placed a course of concrete, composed of smaller stones, and lime beaten and rammed with great care; upon this a third layer of cement was placed; the tesseræ or mosaics were then placed; and over the whole was poured liquid cement, so as to perfectly fill up the interstices between the cubes. During the reigns of the twelve Cæsars this art rose to an unexampled popularity. During the reign of Hadrian (A.D. 138) to that of Caracalla, the art appears to have lost in quality. After the year 220 it became obscured by the clouds which swept the Roman empire. From the time of Constantine three varieties arose, which obtained universally in Italy from the fourth to the fourteenth century, and during nearly 1,000 years changed but little either in principle or design. The emperor, Alexander Severus (A.D. 222 to 235) brought with him from Alexandria great quan-

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